

Claims

It is claimed:

1. A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a display device and a controller having a processor and a memory, the method comprising:

providing an option for enhanced game play of the wagering game;

detecting a first wager from a player to play the wagering game;

detecting a second wager, the second wager indicating selection of the option by the player;

in response to detecting the second wager, enabling enhanced game play of the wagering game;

displaying an outcome associated with enhanced game play of the wagering game; and

awarding a first value payout if the outcome is one of a plurality of winning game outcomes of the wagering game.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein detecting the first wager includes detecting a first credit amount, and wherein detecting the second wager includes detecting a second credit amount.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes increasing a likelihood of an occurrence of a bonus game.

4. The method of claim 1, which includes awarding a bonus game to the player.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes increasing a value payout average of a second plurality of value payouts associated with bonus game play of the bonus game.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes:
 - increasing a likelihood of an occurrence of a bonus game; and
 - increasing a value payout average of a second plurality of value payouts associated with bonus game play of the bonus game.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes increasing a value of the plurality of winning game outcomes.
8. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes awarding a predetermined number of credits to the player if the outcome of the wagering game is a non-winning outcome.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes activating a game feature.
10. A method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a display device and a controller having a processor and a memory, the method comprising:
 - detecting a first wager from a player to play the wagering game;
 - displaying a partial outcome of the wagering game;
 - providing an option to the player for increasing a value of a plurality of value payouts associated with a plurality of winning game outcomes of the wagering game;

detecting a second wager, the second wager indicating selection of the option by the player;

in response to detecting the second wager, displaying a full outcome of the wagering game; and

awarding an increased value payout if the full outcome is one of the plurality of winning game outcomes.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein detecting the first wager includes detecting a first credit amount, and wherein detecting the second wager includes detecting a second credit amount.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein the wagering game comprises a slot game, and wherein displaying the partial outcome includes displaying a partial reel symbol array provided by at least two of a plurality of reels.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein displaying the full outcome includes displaying a full symbol array provided by the plurality of reels, the full symbol array including the partial symbol array.

14. A method of conducting a slot game on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a display device and a controller having a processor and a memory, the method comprising:

designating one of a plurality of reel symbols on one of a plurality of reels of the gaming machine as a super wild symbol;

detecting a first wager from a player to play the slot game;

providing an option to activate the super wild symbol;

detecting a second wager indicating player selection of the option;

in response to detecting the second wager, activating the super wild symbol to enable enhanced slot game play;

rotating and stopping the plurality of reels to display a first reel symbol array; and

if the super wild symbol appears in the first reel symbol array, repositioning the super wild symbol to display a second reel symbol array, the second reel symbol array having a higher value payout than the first reel symbol array.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein detecting the first wager includes detecting a first credit amount, and wherein detecting the second wager includes detecting a second credit amount.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the second credit amount is directly proportional to a number of credits bet per pay line.

17. The method of claim 14, which includes providing a higher probability of an occurrence of a winning symbol combination in the second reel symbol array than in the first symbol array.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein repositioning the super wild symbol includes repositioned the super wild symbol to maximize the value payout to the player.

19. The method of claim 14, wherein providing the option includes providing the option when the first wager includes a player selection of a maximum number of pay lines available for the slot game.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein the reel symbol array includes fifteen reel symbols, and wherein the maximum number of pay lines includes twenty pay lines.

21. The method of claim 14, wherein activating the super wild symbol includes changing a color of the super wild reel symbol.
22. The method of claim 14, wherein the gaming machine comprises a video slot machine, and wherein displaying the first symbol array includes displaying a first symbol array of video reel symbols of the plurality of reels, and wherein displaying the second symbol array includes displaying a second symbol array of video reel symbols of the plurality of reels.
23. The method of claim 14, wherein the gaming machine comprises an adaptable mechanical spinning reel slot machine including a plurality of electro-mechanical reels having a plurality of reels symbols displayed thereon, and wherein the super wild symbol comprises a video reel symbol provided by a flat panel transmissive display positioned in front of the electro-mechanical reels.
24. A method of conducting a slot game on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a plurality of reels and a controller, the plurality of reels having a plurality of reels symbols displayed thereon, the controller having a processor and a memory, the method comprising:
- displaying a first extra reel symbol above a first reel symbol array of the plurality of reel symbols, the first extra reel symbol associated with a first reel of the plurality of reels;
 - detecting a first wager from a player to play the slot game;
 - providing an option to activate a possibility of an additional movement of the first reel;

detecting a second wager indicating player selection of the option;

in response to detecting the second wager, enabling enhanced slot game play including the possibility of the additional movement to reposition the first extra symbol; rotating and stopping the plurality of reels to display a second reel symbol array; and

causing the additional movement of the first reel to display a third reel symbol array if the third symbol array yields a higher value payout than the second symbol array.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein detecting the first wager includes detecting a first credit amount, and wherein detecting the second wager includes detecting a second credit amount.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the second credit amount is directly proportional to a number of credits bet per pay line.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein providing the option includes providing the option when the first wager includes a player selection of a maximum number of pay lines available for the slot game.

28. The method of claim 24, further including:

displaying a second extra reel symbol below the first reel symbol array, the second extra reel symbol associated with the first reel of the plurality of reels; and

causing the addition movement of the first reel to reposition the second extra symbol to display a third reel symbol array if the third symbol array yields a higher value payout than the second symbol array.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein rotating and stopping the plurality of reels includes rotating and stopping the first extra reel symbol and rotating and stopping the second extra reel symbol.
30. The method of claim 28, wherein the gaming machine comprises a video slot machine, and wherein displaying the first extra reel symbol includes displaying a first extra video reel symbol and wherein displaying the second extra reel symbol includes displaying a second extra video reel symbol.
31. The method of claim 28, wherein the gaming machine comprises an adaptable mechanical spinning reel slot machine including a plurality of electro-mechanical reels having a plurality of reels symbols displayed thereon, and wherein displaying the first extra reel symbol includes displaying a first extra video reel symbol and wherein displaying the second extra reel symbol includes displaying a second extra video reel symbol, the first extra video reel symbol and the second extra video reel symbol provided by a flat panel transmissive display positioned in front of the electro-mechanical reels.
32. The method of claim 24, wherein enabling enhanced slot game play including the possibility of the additional movement includes changing a color of the first extra reel symbol and the second extra reel symbol.
33. A method of conducting a slot game on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a plurality of reels and a controller, the plurality of reels having a plurality of reels symbols displayed thereon, the controller having a processor and a memory, the method comprising:

displaying an extra reel symbol above a first reel symbol array of the plurality of reel symbols;

detecting a first wager from a player to play the slot game;

providing an option to activate a possibility of generating an extra pay line that includes the extra reel symbol;

detecting a second wager indicating player selection of the option;

in response to detecting the second wager, enabling enhanced slot game play including the possibility of generating the extra pay line;

rotating and stopping the plurality of reels to display a second reel symbol array; and

if the extra reel symbol completes a winning symbol combination, generating the extra pay line, the extra pay line including the extra reel symbol.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein detecting the first wager includes detecting a first credit amount, and wherein detecting the second wager includes detecting a second credit amount.

35. The method of claim 34, wherein the second credit amount is directly proportional to a number of credits bet per pay line.

36. The method of claim 33, wherein providing the option includes providing the option when the first wager includes a player selection of a maximum number of pay lines available for the slot game.

37. The method of claim 33, wherein rotating and stopping the plurality of reels includes rotating and stopping the extra reel symbol.

38. The method of claim 33, wherein enabling enhanced slot game play includes changing a color of the extra reel symbol.

39. The method of claim 33, wherein the gaming machine comprises a video slot machine, and wherein displaying the extra reel symbol includes displaying an extra video reel symbol.

40. The method of claim 33, wherein the gaming machine comprises an adaptable mechanical spinning reel slot machine including a plurality of electro-mechanical reels having a plurality of reels symbols displayed thereon, and wherein displaying the extra reel symbol includes displaying an extra video reel symbol provided by a flat panel transmissive display positioned in front of the electro-mechanical reels.

41. In a server-based gaming network having a plurality of gaming machines and a plurality of servers, a method of conducting a wagering game on a gaming machine, the gaming machine including a display device and a controller having a processor and a memory, the method comprising:

- providing an option for enhanced game play of the wagering game;

- detecting a first wager from a player to play the wagering game;

- detecting a second wager, the second wager indicating selection of the option by the player;

- in response to detecting the second wager, enabling enhanced game play of the wagering game;

- displaying an outcome associated with enhanced game play of the wagering game; and

awarding a first value payout if the outcome is one of a plurality of winning game outcomes of the wagering game.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein detecting the first wager includes detecting a first credit amount, and wherein detecting the second wager includes detecting a second credit amount.

43. The method of claim 41, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes increasing a likelihood of an occurrence of a bonus game.

44. The method of claim 41, which includes awarding a bonus game to the player.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes increasing a value payout average of a second plurality of value payouts associated with bonus game play of the bonus game.

46. The method of claim 41, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes:
increasing a likelihood of an occurrence of a bonus game; and
increasing a value payout average of a second plurality of value payouts associated with bonus game play of the bonus game.

47. The method of claim 41, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes increasing a value of the plurality of winning game outcomes.

48. The method of claim 41, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes awarding a predetermined number of credits to the player if the outcome of the wagering game is a non-winning outcome.

49. The method of claim 41, wherein enabling enhanced game play includes enabling game features.